



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Supervisor Chris Larson, 14<sup>th</sup> District

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Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager  
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

## **FEWER WORKERS, MORE VANDALISM IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY'S PARKS**

*Supervisors concerned as staffing cutbacks damage Grant, Wilson and Humboldt Parks*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisors Gerry Broderick and Chris Larson are concerned about increased vandalism within Milwaukee County's parks caused by reductions in parks workers. County Executive Scott Walker laid off 27 more parks workers earlier this year.

"As we move into the summer months with even fewer parks workers, we are losing the eyes and ears that protect our parks from damage. This is yet another consequence of inappropriate staffing levels," Supervisor Broderick said. "We have less than one-third of the parks workers we had twenty years ago. When compared to peer systems, we're now dead last on the list of parks workers per thousand residents."

Vandals have targeted numerous south side parks in recent weeks, including Grant Park, Wilson Park and Humboldt Park. The damage includes graffiti, burned playground equipment and smashed car windows.

"With these cutbacks, we might be saving a dime now only to have to spend a dollar later," said Supervisor Larson, whose district includes Wilson and Humboldt Parks. "Vandalism only adds to our deferred parks maintenance backlog, which is already approaching \$300 million. We're losing our parks system and no one seems to care."

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see what is happening," Supervisor Broderick added. "The County Executive's stewardship of the parks is clearly in question. He believes in the penny-wise, but as we see in this case, it's clearly pound-foolish."

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